Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 10/691,117 Confirmation No.: 5330 Filed: October 21, 2003

For: SULFONATED STYRENE COPOLYMERS FOR MEDICAL USES

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the aboveidentified application:

1-14. (Canceled)

- 15. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling biological organisms on a porous surface said method comprising forming a water-insoluble coating comprising at least one salt of a polysulfonated <u>block copolymer</u> hydrogel on the porous surface said porous surface is an article selected from the group <u>consisting of emprising</u> a garment, a gas filter, a laboratory work surface, a laboratory wipe, and a wound dressing.
- 16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein forming a coating comprises coating the porous surface with the polysulfonated <u>block copolymer</u> hydrogel in acid form and converting the acid form of the polysulfonated <u>block copolymer</u> hydrogel to the salt form.
- 17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the salt of the polysulfonated <u>block copolymer</u> hydrogel is an ammonium salt.
- 18-28. (Canceled)
- 29. (Canceled)
- 30. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the polysulfonated block copolymer hydrogel is a sulfonated styrene-ethylene-styrene triblock copolymer.

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 (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the coating additionally comprises a tetracycline.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the tetracycline is doxycycline.

33. (Canceled)

- 34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the wound dressing comprises a substrate selected from the group consisting of a foam, a woven fabric, a knit fabric, and a nonwoven fabric.
- 35. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the polysulfonated <u>block copolymer</u> hydrogel comprises a polysulfonated poly(styrene-alkylene) polymer wherein alkylene segments of the polymer are an unsaturated hydrocarbon residue.
- 36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 35, wherein the unsaturated hydrocarbon residue adjoins styrene segments of the polysulfonated poly(styrene-alkylene) polymer.
- 37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 35, wherein the unsaturated hydrocarbon residue comprises repeat units selected from the group consisting of ethylene, propylene, isopropylene, butylene, isobutylene, hexylene, and combinations thereof.
- 38. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the polysulfonated block copolymer hydrogel is blended with at least one non-sulfonated polymer.

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39. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling biological organisms on a porous surface said method comprising forming a water-insoluble coating comprising at least one salt of a polysulfonated <u>block copolymer</u> hydrogel on the porous surface said porous surface comprising paper, fabric, or and a combination thereof.

- 40. (New) A method for controlling biological organisms on a porous surface, the method comprising forming a water-insoluble coating on the porous surface, wherein the water-insoluble coating comprises at least one salt of a polysulfonated hydrogel that is not chemically crosslinked.
- 41. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the porous surface is an article selected from the group consisting of a garment, a gas filter, a laboratory work surface, a laboratory wipe, and a wound dressing.
- (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the porous surface comprises paper, fabric, or a combination thereof.
- 43. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein forming a coating comprises coating the porous surface with the polysulfonated hydrogel in acid form and converting the acid form of the polysulfonated hydrogel to the salt form.
- 44. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the coating additionally comprises a tetracycline.
- (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the polysulfonated hydrogel comprises a
 polysulfonated block copolymer hydrogel.

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- 46. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein forming a coating comprises coating the porous surface with the polysulfonated block copolymer hydrogel in acid form and converting the acid form of the polysulfonated block copolymer hydrogel to the salt form.
- 47. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the coating additionally comprises a tetracycline.
- 48. (New) A method for controlling biological organisms on a porous surface, the method comprising forming a water-insoluble coating on the porous surface, the water insoluble coating comprising at least one salt of at least one polysulfonated block copolymer hydrogel blended with at least one non-sulfonated polymer, wherein the porous surface is an article selected from the group consisting of a garment, a gas filter, a laboratory work surface, a laboratory wipe, and a wound dressing.